



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
GovernorDepartment of  
Environmental QualityAmanda Smith  
Acting Executive DirectorDIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
Walter L. Baker, P.E.  
Director

August 13, 2009

Mr. Bruce Hill, President & CEO  
UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.  
West Ridge Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 910  
East Carbon, UT 84520-0910

Subject: Inspection Reports for UPDES Permit No. UT0025640 (West Ridge Mine)

Dear Mr. Hill:

On July 29 and August 11, 2009 I conducted Reconnaissance Inspections in regards to your UPDES permit and facility referenced above. Specifically I observed the outfalls and receiving waters at West Ridge Mine, as well as the continuing stream channel abatement activities.

Enclosed are copies of the inspection reports for your records. Although no further Deficiencies have been identified, please review the attached narrative report and contact me with any questions. I appreciate your continued resolution efforts and keeping me informed of the operations. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 538-6779 or by e-mail at [jstudenka@utah.gov](mailto:jstudenka@utah.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeff Studenka, Environmental Scientist  
UPDES IES Section

Enclosures

cc (w/encl): Amy Clark, EPA Region VIII  
Claron Bjork, SE District Health Department  
Dave Ariotti, SE District Engineer  
Daron Haddock, Division of Oil Gas & Mines  
Dave Shaver, West Ridge Mine

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United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20460

## Water Compliance Inspection Report

### Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., ICIS)

Transaction Code <input type="text" value="N"/>	NPDES <input type="text" value="U"/> <input type="text" value="T"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="5"/> <input type="text" value="6"/> <input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>	yr/mo/day <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="7"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="9"/>	Inspection Type <input type="text" value="R"/>	Inspector <input type="text" value="S"/>	Fac. Type <input type="text" value="2"/>					
Remarks										
Inspection Work Days <input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="1"/>						Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating <input type="text" value="3"/>	BI <input type="text" value="N"/>	QA <input type="text" value="N"/>	Reserved	

### Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) West Ridge Resources, West Ridge Mine 794 North "C" Canyon Road, Carbon County, UT	Entry Time/ Date 10:20 am/ 7-29-2009	Permit Effective Date 5-1-2006
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Dave Shaver, Resident Agent, West Ridge Mine, (435) 888-4017 phone (435) 637-9645, fax (435) 637-8679	Exit Time/ Date 12:15 pm /7-29-2009	Permit Expiration Date 4-30-2011
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number Bruce Hill, President and CEO UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. P.O. Box 1077 Price, UT 84501 (435) 888-4000	Other Facility Data (e.g., SIC NAICS, and other descriptive information) Bituminous Coal Underground Mining Facility SIC Code 1222 NAICS 212112 SEE ATTACHED	

### Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Monitoring Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Pretreatment	<input type="checkbox"/> MS4
<input type="checkbox"/> Records/Reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> Pollution Prevention	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility Site Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Storm Water	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effluent/Receiving Waters	<input type="checkbox"/> Operations & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined Sewer Overflow	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flow Measurement	<input type="checkbox"/> Sludge Handling/Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Sewer Overflow	

### Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

(Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists, including Single Event Violation codes, as necessary)

SEV Codes	SEV Description
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<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) JEFF STUDENKA, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST 	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Number(s) DWQ (801) 538-6779	Date: 8-13-09
Name and Signature of Management Q A Reviewer MIKE HERKIMER, MANAGER UPDES IES SECTION 	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Number(s) DWQ (801) 538-6058	Date: 8/17/09

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Section A: National Data System Coding (*i.e.*, ICIS)

**Column 1: Transaction Code:** Use N, C, or D for New, Change, or Delete. All inspections will be *new* unless there is an error in the data entered.

**Columns 3-11: NPDES Permit No.** Enter the facility's NPDES permit number - third character in permit number indicates permit type for U=unpermitted, G=general permit, etc. (*Use the Remarks columns to record the State permit number, if necessary.*)

**Columns 12-17: Inspection Date.** Insert the date entry was made into the facility. Use the year/month/day format (e.g., 04/10/01 = October 01, 2004).

**Column 18: Inspection Type\*.** Use one of the codes listed below to describe the type of inspection:

A	Performance Audit	X	Toxics Inspection	6	IU Non-Sampling Inspection with Pretreatment
B	Compliance Biomonitoring	Z	Sludge - Biosolids	7	IU Toxics with Pretreatment
C	Compliance Evaluation (non-sampling)	#	Combined Sewer Overflow-Sampling	!	Pretreatment Compliance (Oversight)@
D	Diagnostic	\$	Combined Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling	{	Storm Water-Construction-Sampling
F	Pretreatment (Follow-up)	+	Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Sampling	}	Storm Water-Construction-Non-Sampling
G	Pretreatment (Audit)	&	Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling	:	Storm Water-Non-Construction-Sampling
I	Industrial User (IU) Inspection	\	CAFO-Sampling	~	Storm Water-Non-Construction-Non-Sampling
J	Complaints	=	CAFO-Non-Sampling	<	Storm Water-MS4-Sampling
M	Multimedia	2	IU Sampling Inspection	-	Storm Water-MS4-Non-Sampling
N	Spill	3	IU Non-Sampling Inspection	>	Storm Water-MS4-Audit
O	Compliance Evaluation (Oversight)	4	IU Toxics Inspection		
P	Pretreatment Compliance Inspection	5	IU Sampling Inspection with Pretreatment		
R	Reconnaissance				
S	Compliance Sampling				
U	IU Inspection with Pretreatment Audit				

**Column 19: Inspector Code.** Use one of the codes listed below to describe the lead agency in the inspection.

A-	State (Contractor)	O-	Other Inspectors, Federal/EPA (Specify in Remarks columns)
B-	EPA (Contractor)	P-	Other Inspectors, State (Specify in Remarks columns)
E-	Corps of Engineers	R-	EPA Regional Inspector
J-	Joint EPA/State Inspectors—EPA Lead	S-	State Inspector
L-	Local Health Department (State)	T-	Joint State/EPA Inspectors—State lead
N-	NEIC Inspectors		

**Column 20: Facility Type.** Use one of the codes below to describe the facility.\*

- 1- Municipal. Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with 1987 Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 4952.
- 2- Industrial. Other than municipal, agricultural, and Federal facilities.
- 3- Agricultural. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 0111 to 0971.
- 4- Federal. Facilities identified as Federal by the EPA Regional Office.
- 5- Oil & Gas. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 1311 to 1389.

**Columns 21-66: Remarks.** These columns are reserved for remarks at the discretion of the Region.

**Columns 67-69: Inspection Work Days.** Estimate the total work effort (to the nearest 0.1 work day), up to 99.9 days, that were used to complete the inspection and submit a QA reviewed report of findings. This estimate includes the accumulative effort of all participating inspectors; any effort for laboratory analyses, testing, and remote sensing; and the billed payroll time for travel and pre and post inspection preparation. This estimate does not require detailed documentation.

**Column 70: Facility Evaluation Rating.** Use information gathered during the inspection (regardless of inspection type) to evaluate the quality of the facility self-monitoring program. Grade the program using a scale of 1 to 5 with a score of 5 being used for very reliable self-monitoring programs, 3 being satisfactory, and 1 being used for very unreliable programs.

**Column 71: Biomonitoring Information.** Enter D for static testing. Enter F for flow through testing. Enter N for no biomonitoring.

**Column 72: Quality Assurance Data Inspection.** Enter Q if the inspection was conducted as follow-up on quality assurance sample results. Enter N otherwise.

**Columns 73-80:** These columns are reserved for regionally defined information.

### Section B: Facility Data

This section is self-explanatory except for "Other Facility Data," which may include new information not in the permit or PCS (e.g., new outfalls, names of receiving waters, new ownership, other updates to the record, SIC/NAICS Codes, Latitude/Longitude).

### Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

Check only those areas evaluated by marking the appropriate box. Use Section D and additional sheets as necessary. Support the findings, as necessary, in a brief narrative report. Use the headings given on the report form (e.g., Permit, Records/Reports) when discussing the areas evaluated during the inspection.

### Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

Briefly summarize the inspection findings. This summary should abstract the pertinent inspection findings, not replace the narrative report. Reference a list of attachments, such as completed checklists taken from the NPDES Compliance Inspection Manuals and pretreatment guidance documents, including effluent data when sampling has been done. Use extra sheets as necessary.

\*Footnote: In addition to the inspection types listed above under column 18, a state may continue to use the following wet weather and CAFO inspection types until the state is brought into ICIS-NPDES: K: CAFO, V: SSO, Y: CSO, W: Storm Water 9: MS4. States may also use the new wet weather, CAFO and MS4 inspections types shown in column 18 of this form. The EPA regions are required to use the new wet weather, CAFO, and MS4 inspection types for inspections with an inspection date (DTIN) on or after July 1, 2005.

## **INSPECTION PROTOCOL**

UPDES Permit #: UT0025640 - West Ridge Mine  
Inspection Type: Reconnaissance Inspection (RI)  
Inspection Dates: July 29, 2009 and August 11, 2009  
Weather Conditions: Sunny and warm, ~ 77-82°F

Jeff Studenka of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) met with Dave Shaver at the Utah American Energy, Inc., West Ridge Resources coal mine facility (West Ridge) as well as with DOGM and BLM personnel to observe stream channel abatement activities on July 29, 2009. A separate unannounced site visit was made on August 11, 2009, while already in the area, also to observe the stream channel abatement activities. The purpose for the site visits was to once again perform reconnaissance inspections as a result of recent elevated total iron & TSS concentrations in the mine water discharge. Since the previous inspections on 6/30/2009, West Ridge has continued installing water distribution options underground to increase settling time and to reduce the amount of coal fines present in the discharge, as both total iron & TSS concentrations have been reduced to within permit limitations on a more consistent basis for the month of July 2009. Concurrently, the process continues for removing the coal fines deposited along the stream channel as West Ridge previously constructed four catchment basin structures (A, C, E, & F) downstream to collect the coal fines for subsequent removal.

## **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

Location: 794 North "C" Canyon Road, near East Carbon, Utah  
Coordinates: Outfall 001 – 39° 36' 45" North latitude, 110° 26' 26" West longitude  
Outfall 002 – 39° 36' 58" North latitude, 110° 26' 10" West longitude

Average Flow: ~ 1 MGD (Outfall 002, mine water discharge)

Receiving water: "C" Canyon Ephemeral Drainage → Grassy Trail Creek

Process: Underground coal mining operation utilizing long-wall technology. Water from the mine is conveyed to a below ground collection area, where it is treated for iron via chemical flocculent and then continuously pumped out of the mine and discharged to the surface via Outfall 002. Surface water runoff is conveyed to an above ground settling pond system with a single discharge point (Outfall 001). Outfall 001 has not discharged to date.

## **INSPECTION SUMMARIES**

July 29, 2009: This reconnaissance inspection was limited to outside the mine where the water collection and distribution systems are exposed. The two outfall locations were observed as well as the receiving waters of "C" Canyon Drainage, Grassy Trail Creek and the treatment operations at Catchment Basin "A." At the time of the inspection, outfall 001 was not discharging as there was very little water in second sedimentation pond. At outfall 002, the mine water discharge was the only flow in "C" Canyon and the discharge was observed downstream in Grassy Trail Creek as well. Outfall 002 discharges appeared to be only partially clear or slightly turbid and light grey in color with some foaming observed immediately downstream of the outfall. Black coal fines were observed to be only minimal in proximity to outfall 002, but still remained heavily deposited along the bottom and edges of

the stream channel further downstream where abatement activities are on-going towards Catchment Basin "A."

August 11, 2009: This reconnaissance inspection was limited to observing the stream channel abatement activities between outfall 002 and at Catchment Basin "A." The mine water discharge, receiving waters of "C" Canyon Drainage, Grassy Trail Creek and the treatment operations at Catchment Basin "A" were all observed. At the time of the inspection, the mine water discharge via outfall 002 was the only flow in "C" Canyon and the discharge was observed flowing downstream in Grassy Trail Creek as well. The settling treatment appears to be working well, as downstream waters from "A" were observed to be mostly clear and flowing steady with minimal coal fines below "A." Above "A" the flow was observed to be mostly black and full of coal fines as it approached the treatment process, as earlier brooming activities were performed.

At the time of both inspections, the clear waters of Grassy Trail Creek were observed downstream beyond the overpass on US 6 Hwy.

### **DEFICIENCIES**

No additional deficiencies were noted as sample results for July 2009 have both total iron and TSS back into full compliance with the permit limitations. Previous deficiencies for numeric effluent violations have been addressed under separate cover with a Notice of Violation and Settlement Agreement (SA), as agreed upon by West Ridge. After the concurrent 30-day public notice, the fully executed SA and prompt penalty payment will formally resolve the alleged violations therein.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

1. Continue implementing your corrective action plan to treat the mine water and subsequent discharges for elevated total iron and TSS concentrations and return the West Ridge facility to full compliance with your UPDES Permit on a continual basis.
2. Continue to inform DWQ with updates of your corrective action plan to eliminate the coal fines in the mine water discharge and along the stream channel downstream of Outfall 002.
3. As mentioned above, the Notice of Violation and Settlement Agreement (SA), as agreed upon by West Ridge, is currently on 30-day public notice, after which the fully executed SA and prompt penalty payment will formally resolve the alleged violations therein.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

If not already doing so, West Ridge should implement a more regular visual monitoring program of the outfalls and receiving waters and record the observations for reference. Items such as color, foaming, clarity or turbidity of the mine water discharge recorded on a daily or twice-weekly basis are examples of conditions that may help indicate when a problem or situation occurs underground that warrants attention. A simple field book or log sheet checklist as completed would accomplish this recommendation.

# Water Compliance Inspection Report

## Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., ICIS)

<b>Transaction Code</b>		<b>NPDES</b>										<b>yr/mo/day</b>			<b>Inspection Type</b>		<b>Inspector</b>		<b>Fac. Type</b>			
<div>N</div>		<div>U</div>	<div>T</div>	<div>0</div>	<div>0</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>0</div>		<div>0</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>0</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>R</div>	<div>S</div>	<div>2</div>		
1	2	311										1217			18	19	20					
<b>Remarks</b>																						
2166																						
<b>Inspection Work Days</b>			<b>Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating</b>										<b>BI</b>	<b>QA</b>	<b>Reserved</b>							
<div>1</div>			<div>3</div>									<div>N</div>	<div>N</div>									
67	68	69	70									71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	80		

## Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number)		Entry Time/ Date 2:30 pm/ 8-11-2009		Permit Effective Date 5-1-2006	
West Ridge Resources, West Ridge Mine 794 North "C" Canyon Road, Carbon County, UT		Exit Time/ Date 2:45 pm /8-11-2009		Permit Expiration Date 4-30-2011	
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s)		Other Facility Data (e.g., SIC NAICS, and other descriptive information)			
Jason from SCAMP excavation and construction company on site at Catchment Basin A		Bituminous Coal Underground Mining Facility SIC Code 1222 NAICS 212112			
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number		SEE ATTACHED			
Bruce Hill, President and CEO UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. P.O. Box 1077 Price, UT 84501 (435) 888-4000		Contacted <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes           <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         </div>			



## Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Monitoring Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Pretreatment	<input type="checkbox"/> MS4
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Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) JEFF STUDENKA, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST 	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Number(s) DWQ (801) 538-6779	Date: 8-13-09
Name and Signature of Management Q A Reviewer MIKE HERKIMER, MANAGER UPDES IES SECTION 	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Number(s) DWQ (801) 538-6058	Date: 8/17/09

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G Pretreatment (Audit)	& Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling	} Storm Water-Construction-Non-Sampling
I Industrial User (IU) Inspection	\ CAFO-Sampling	: Storm Water-Non-Construction-Sampling
J Complaints	= CAFO-Non-Sampling	~ Storm Water-Non-Construction-Non-Sampling
M Multimedia	2 IU Sampling Inspection	< Storm Water-MS4-Sampling
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